Green India Campaign

†*208. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:††
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Green India Campaign is being run by Government for implementing strategy to meet the climate change;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the environment of forests has become unbalanced by uncontrolled afforestation of Prosopis Juliflora (Vilayati Babool) in Rajasthan, whose effect is reflecting as constant decline in wildlife and medicinal plants in the forests; and

(d) whether there is any scheme to take help of voluntary agencies alongwith the forest officers working in States on afforestation under Green India Campaign?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests proposes to take up plantation over 6 million hectares of degraded forests of the country in two Phases by utilizing the money collected under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). This has been known as "Green India Programme". The money collected under CAMPA besides being used to partly finance the Green India Programme would be mainly used for site specific schemes approved for taking up compensatory afforestation, artificial regeneration (plantation), natural assisted regeneration, forest management, protection, infrastructure development, wildlife protection and management. These activities besides greening the country would also help in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change.

(c) The State Government of Rajasthan has informed that Prosopis Juliflora had not been planted in Rajasthan during the last 10 years except on few refractory sites where other species would not come up. While Prosopis Juliflora is acting as an impenetrable barrier to biotic interference thereby contributing towards conservation of biodiversity, there are a few areas where it has become menace to plants and wildlife. Therefore, its eradication in such areas has been taken up.

(d) Under the proposed Green India Programme the implementation would be done through the mechanism of Joint Forest Management using the Forest Development Agencies (FDAs).

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: माननीय सभापति महोदय, 1988 में जो राष्ट्रीय वन नीति घोषित की गई थी, उसमें कहा गया था कि देश की कुल भूमि का एक तिहाई भाग वनों से आच्छादित होना चाहिए। वर्तमान में यह 11.88 प्रतिशत है और पिछले दो वर्षों में 26,245 वर्ग किलोमीटर में वनों का ह्रास हुआ है। मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह कहना चाहता हूं कि कई वर्षों से हम सुनते आ रहे हैं कि वृक्षारोपण लगातार होता रहता है और वही राष्ट्रीय हित में भी है और यदि इस सारे वृक्षारोपण को केलकुलेट किया जाए तो देश में एक इंच भी भूमि ऐसी नहीं रहेगी जहां कि वृक्ष उगा हुआ न हो। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि केवल वृक्ष उगाने से ही काम नहीं

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
††The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi.

चलेगा, बल्कि वे बचें , पालित-पोषित हों, इसकी मॉनिटरिंग की कोई व्यवस्था हो। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि आप कृपया बताने का प्रयास करेंगे कि ग्रीन रिवोल्यूशन जो लाने वाले हैं, इसमें पेड़ लगाने के साथ-साथ आप मॉनिटरिंग की क्या व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं? उसी प्रकार क्या पंचायतों को इन वनों को अलॉट करके, कानून के आधार पर, उनको पालने-पोसने की प्रक्रिया देकर इस काम को आगे बढ़ाने का विचार आप रखते हैं या नहीं?

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Sir, the question relates to the Green India Programme and climate change. Anyhow, firstly, we had promised to cover 1/3rd of the geographical area of the forest land by 2012. But, now, we have planned to cover thirty per cent portion by 2012, and, subsequent portion in the coming years. But, at the same time, the Government of India is taking full care to protect forests under the Forest Conservation Act. Now, under the Forest Conservation Act, we are diverting the lands as per the rules. So, there is no illegality or anything.

With regard to protection of the forest area, I would like to say that we are now undertaking Green India Programme to maintain forests. The Green India Programme is for massive afforestation of the degraded forest land of the country utilising financial resources, partly provided by the Compensatory Afforestation Funds (CAF) and the remaining mobilized from the market, development partner associations, carbon credits, income from tree felling at ecologically appropriate intervals to augment funds and service debts. The task is to undertake afforestation, assisted natural regeneration, management and protection of forest, infrastructure development and watershed development/conservation works within....*(Interruptions)*...

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: महोदय, मेरे सवाल का तो जवाब नहीं आ रहा है। मैं पालित, पोषित और बचाने की चर्चा कर रहा हूं, उसकी मॉनिटरिंग की चर्चा कर रहा हूं।

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Sir, monitoring is properly done by the Forest Development Authorities, which are there. Forest Management Committees are there. The State Committees are looking after it. As this subject falls under the Concurrent List, the State Government is taking steps to protect the forests. When they want to divert the land, we only give them the permission and that too according to law. So, as this subject is in the Concurrent List, which I mentioned earlier also, the State Government is taking care of it.

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: महोदय, मुझे कुछ कहना नहीं है, आप संतुष्ट हों तो मैं दूसरा सवाल करता हूं। किन्तु आप संतुष्ट होंगे तो इस बात से मुझे कुछ कहना नहीं है।

श्री सभापति: आप दूसरा supplementary पूछिए।

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: महोदय, इसी सवाल के दूसरे क्रमांक में मैंने राजस्थान के विषय में चर्चा की थी। राजस्थान में मरुस्थल का विकास, विस्तार इसीलिए हो रहा है क्योंकि वहां पर अंधाधुंध चराई और वनों का विनाश किया गया। दूसरी तरफ, अभी तो माननीय मंत्री जी ने प्रश्न के उत्तर में ठीक कहा कि वनों के विकास के नाम पर हम विलायती बबूल नहीं लगा रहे हैं। मैं आपको कहना चाहता हूं कि जो विलायती बबूल पिछली बार, पिछले वर्षों में लगाया गया, वह इतनी तेजी से बढ़ा है कि मुझे पता नहीं कि उस विलायती बबूल ने आज सारे राजस्थान में तथा सारे देश में, चारों तरफ अपना विस्तार करा दिया है या नहीं करा दिया है। ऐसा है यह विलायती बबूल...(व्यवधान)... । मैं सवाल तो कर रहा हूं ...(व्यवधान)... ।

श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया: आपकी सरकार वहां पर क्या कर रही है...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go ahead.

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: महोदय, यह विलायती बबूल वह है, जिसके नीचे घास नहीं उगती है, जो लगातार बढ़ता चला जा रहा है। मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं कि यह विलायती बबूल ऐसा है। हमारे दूसरे मंत्री बैठे हैं, वन मंत्री बैठे हैं, वह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इसके कारण जो विनाश हो रहा है, इसको समाप्त करने की कोई प्रक्रिया बनाने हेतु आपने तय किया है या नहीं किया है, कोई व्यवस्था की है या नहीं की है?

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Hon. Chairman, Sir, prosopis is a genus of about 45 species of leguminous spiny trees and shrubs found in subtropical and tropical regions of America, Africa and southwest Asia. They often thrive in arid soil and are resistant to droughts and occasionally developing extremely deep root systems. Their wood is usually hard, dense and durable. Their fruits are pods and may contain large amounts of sugar.

But, at the same time, we are not encouraging it and according to the reports from the Rajasthan Government, it is clearly given in the para 'c'. The State Government of Rajasthan has informed that prosopis juliflora had not been planted in Rajasthan during the last ten years except on few refractory sites where other species would not come up.

While Prosopis Juliflora is acting as an impenetrable barrier to biotic interference thereby contributing towards conservation of bio-diversity, there are a few areas where it has become menace to plants and wildlife. Therefore, its eradication in such areas has been taken up. so, there is no plantation of Juliflora.

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Sir, I want to know from the Minister, because he is talking about the Green India Programme, within 24 hours how much Carbon Dioxide is released in the air. And, is it true that due to the huge quantity of Carbon dioxide released, Himalayan glaciers are melting? What are the steps being taken by the Government apart from plantation of trees? This is what I would like to know from the hon. Minister.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Sir, through Green India Programme, Greenhouse Gas emissions have to be reduced. So, under Green India Programme, we have taken steps to control emission of Carbon Dioxide and other gases. At the same time, I want to say that the total Greenhouse Gas emission from India in 1994 was 1228.54 carbon dioxide equivalent MT, of which, Carbon Dioxide emissions were 793.49 MT, Methane emissions were 18.1 MT and Nitrous Oxide emissions were 0.178 MT. It is equivalent to 0.87 tonnes Carbon Dioxide per capita in 1994. These figures have been officially reported in India's Initial National Communication to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This was 4 per cent of the US per capita, 8 per cent of Germany, 9 per cent of UK, 10 per cent of Japan and 23 per cent of the global average. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: What about melting of Himalayan glaciers due to the huge quantity of Carbon Dioxide?

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: We have taken steps. Through Green India Programme, we are raising plants, trees and other things. Through that we are reducing it.

श्रीमती जया बच्चन: सर, यह बहुत दुख की बात है कि मिनिस्टर साहब अपने अफसरों द्वारा लिखे गए उत्तर दे रहे हैं।

श्री सभापति: आप सवाल पूछ लें।

श्रीमती जया बच्चन: मैं पूछ रही हूं और मुझे संदेह है कि मैं जो प्रश्न करूंगी, उसका उत्तर आप दे पाएंगे या नहीं। आप ग्रीन इंडिया प्रोजेक्ट में नीम के बारे में क्या कर रहे हैं? उसकी patenting के बारे में क्या कर रहे हैं, क्योंकि अमेरिका उसके पीछे पड़ा हुआ है। मुझे पता है कि आपका उस कंट्री के लिए बहुत सॉफ्ट नज़रिया है, अमेरिका उसको patent करने के लिए पीछे पड़ा हुआ है। आप उसके बारे में क्या कर रह हैं क्योंकि neem is a very important tree and it is ours; it belongs to this country. Thank you.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: This question relates to the Commerce Ministry. However, our Government will take proper steps. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Karan Singh ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणि: सर, देश में वन और पर्यावरण मंत्री नहीं है और माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी यहां बैठे हुए हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, Panyji please resume your place. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्रीमती जया बच्चन: सर, यह किस तरह का जवाब है?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you have a problem with the answer, you can raise a separate query on that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Sir, this question relates to the Ministry of Commerce. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is related to the Ministry of Commerce. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्रीमती जया बच्चन: सर, हम यहां मैम्बर्स हैं। हम कोई बहुत सीरियस सवाल पूछते हैं। I have put a question and the answer has to be given. ...*(Interruptions)*... 'Satisfactory action will be taken' is not the right answer. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are interrupting the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Sir, this relates to the Ministry of Commerce. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री अमर सिंह: सर, मंत्री जी को तैयारी करके आना चाहिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Amar Singhji, please ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, resume your place. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let the next question proceed. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. Karan Singh. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. Karan Singh, Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this question has brought to the fore one of the most serious matters that faces the country and that is the disappearance of the green cover. Satellite photographs are now showing that the green cover in this country is steadily shrinking.

DR. KARAN SINGH: And I am surprised that the Minister has said that the Ministry of Environment and Forests proposes to take up plantation over six million hectares of degraded forests. Surely, over all these years, there have been countinuing programmes of plantation. This reply gives the impression as if we are starting *de novo*.

Would the Minister be kind enough to tell us this? One, is he aware of the urgency of the problem of deforestation? Two, what are the schemes that are continuing, quite apart from this Green India Programme?

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Sir, this six million hectares of degraded forest land of the country to be taken up in ten years will be done through the CAMPA Programme. It is another project. Through CAMPA only, we have undertaken it. The Green India Programme is part of CAMPA.

Under CAMPA, we have undertaken it and we will take six million hectares of degraded land of the country, in the next ten years, at an estimated cost of Rs. one lakh for three hectares. In the first phase, three million hectares of degraded forest land will be taken up for afforestation from the year 2008. The previous scheme is in no way connected with it. It is a new Scheme announced by the hon. Prime Minister.

Under the Green India Programme, we are going to take another six million hectares of degraded forest land; apart from though J.F.M.C.S.

Policy for Allocation of Spectrum

*††209. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has evolved a transparent and equitable policy for allocation of spectrum, as announced by the Prime Minister at the inauguration of the 'India Telecom-2007', on December 12, 2007;

(b) the details thereof indicating the precise nature and substance of the controversy; and

(c) the steps taken in the light of such a policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Government has revised the subscriber based criteria for allotment of additional spectrum with the growth of services/subscriber base. The revised criteria ensure improved spectrum utilization. Allotment of spectrum is done in accordance with the said criteria subject to availability.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I have come to now from different newspapers and have got information that the Ministry of Communications and IT, and TRAI have a lot of differences on this issues. What are these differences? In the process, is it also true that the Association representing the CDMA and the GSM operators have differing views over the issues? How does the Government propose to reconcile these interests with the overall interest of the consumers? Even I, as consumer, do not know which is the best service. So many confusions are there. How does the Government want to do it?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, I do not think that there is any confusion at all in this regard. Being a regulator, between TRAI and the Government, there is no dispute at all. Whatever be the recommendations made by TRAI, they have been fully accepted by the Government so far as the allotment of additional spectrum is concerned. TRAI's recommendation was

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Santosh Bagrodia.